

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF THE
EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

PRESENT: Warden, Forni-Feathers, Whitaker, Carter, Bloxsom, Williams, Jones, Kobervig, Witherow, Willyard, and White

MANAGER: Kathy Dunkak

OTHERS: Robin Cleveland, Brian Veerkamp, and Paul Sobelman

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

1. Call to Order at 4:30 pm

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

C. Record verification of legal meeting notice. Dunkak authenticated the verification.

D. Determine Quorum. Warden determined that the requirements for a quorum were met.

2. Approve Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items

Willyard moved that the meeting minutes, correspondence, and an acknowledgment of agreements from January be approved. Witherow seconded the motion. The motion was carried to approval.

3. Public Forum

Paul Sobelman, Board President of the Imagination Theater, thanked the Fair Association for working with the Theater on the contract renewal. Also advised the Board that Peter Wolfe was no longer affiliated with the theater.

4. Old Business

A. Dunkak brought verbiage for the revision of the director eligibility policy, as did Witherow. Whitaker opposes the idea of changing the policy. Warden doesn't like the idea of a former boss becoming a board member.

Whitaker made a motion to keep the policy the same. Jones seconded. Put to vote, six nos, four yeses, and one abstained. Motion failed.

Witherow moved to accept the new verbiage, which requires two board members to sponsor a previous employee before they can be admitted to serve on the board.

Feathers seconded. Put to vote: six yeses, four no's, and 1 abstained. Motion carried to approval.

B. Conflict of Interest: Kobervig's and Williams' need to be approved. Neither listed any conflict.

Witherow made a motion to accept the conflict of interests from both. Bloxsom seconded the motion.

Motion carried to approval.

5. New Business

A. White shared her WFA Conference from the five or six sessions that she attended.

B. Rescheduling of May's Meeting as Farm Day is on May 6th. The meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 29. Meeting at 10:30 in the Board Room, luncheon at Noon (the luncheon will be held in the Forni Building, as the Marshall is rented on that date).

Willyard made a motion to move the meeting to April 29. Witherow seconded. Motion carried to approval.

6. Manager's Report

Congratulations to Willyard as she was appointed woman of the year by the BOS (nominated by Senator Alvarado-Gil).

We have officially relocated the steer to Barn D (for the fair). The rabbits and goats will be sent to Milton. All youth who are raising steer will have a mandatory practice run on March 22. With no poultry this year it was a good time to try Barn D for steer, as our steer numbers have been high the past few years. This move will allow more room for fairgoers to see steer.

No poultry or dairy cattle at the fair. There will be an Avian Bowl Contest for the poultry youth. They will have to compete and take a test to pass their project.

There have been several stumps removed from the grounds at a cost of \$1200. We will be replanting trees in their place.

The roof was replaced on the Speedway restrooms near the concession stands. And the trim has been painted to match the rest of the grounds. We are currently obtaining bids to paint the grandstands.

Lebeck Engineering is still working on the plans for the drainage ditch. There were discrepancies in the original topography report, so it had to be re-surveyed.

Automatic sprinklers have been installed in the Tiki area to allow the grass to grow back.

7. **Treasurers Report –**

No unusual entries. Office upgrade is moving along. Forni-Feathers asked about fair time advertisement. We are going to replace the Fair Guide with a pocket guide. It will have fair information, schedule, highlights, map and sponsors. We'll be doing the marquee at the Palladio, Georgetown Gazette, Mountain Democrat, Folsom Telegraph, and Around Here again this year. We will have Daily Schedules at the bars and office each day. Kobervig moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Forni-Feathers seconded. Motion carried to approval.

8. **Ad Hoc Committee Chair Reports**

- A. Adopt-a-Spot will be judging at the end of March or in early April for this quarter.
- B. Solar. Met with Greentech Energy March 12th. This is a huge learning process, and Kobervig is meeting with several solar companies for multiple bids and plans.
- C. Fair Binder – White and Witherow to meet and review, making adjustments as needed.
- D. Parking: Forni-Feathers, Bloxson, and Jones will meet soon to discuss.
- E. No updates from other committees

9. **Director's To/From**

Willyard: Asked whatever happened with Myra Lowder's complaint about fair last year. Dunkak reached out to Lowder and Ms. Lowder had nothing else to say.

Bloxson: He's gone over the last two years of paperwork regarding year-long trespasses. He has six individuals that have consistently been committing crimes and having altercations with officers during the fair. He will work with Dunkak to have these individuals served with a "no trespass" warning prior to the fair. He is working with his team preparing for the security of the fair. He has repeatedly overheard people talking about how much safer they feel at the Fair now.

Williams: Our newest Director introduced himself. He has been a long-time friend of Tom Davis and Todd White.

White: Question about the lighting on the hill next to Barn D (during the fair). It's dark over there. Dunkak – we are shifting the community stage to face towards the corner grass area to the north of Barn D. Also looking at lightening Wine Garden Road during the Fair.

Witherow: Where are the smoking areas during the fair? We need more signage because too many people smoke in congested areas.

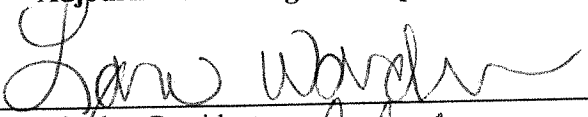
Warden: What is happening at the museum? The Director said they it will be open for fair.

Whitaker: Why don't we dismantle the organ and move to the museum? Witherow said the county has been discussing what to do with it.

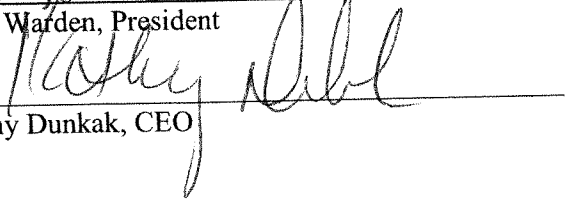
Jones: Disappointed that the wine competition was canceled. He feels it's a significant blow to the agricultural industry here. Dunkak discussed canceling 2025 to revamp for 2026 at the January meeting. We are losing a lot of money and that doesn't include staff time. We are discussing switching from a medal system to a points system. We haven't received any bad press or comments regarding the cancellation. We will start planning after fair.

Carter: Went to the Area meeting at WFA. Mariposa put up barn signage highlighting how the youth attend YQCA and become certified to raise and show their livestock projects. Calaveras puts up Ag educational signs around their barns, "Did you know...?" Amador offers presale incentives to its sponsors. Drives people to sponsor's websites for possible prizes. Mother Lode area is looking at having a monthly Zoom meeting.

Adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm.



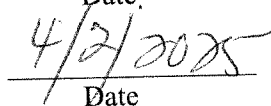
Lori Warden, President



Kathy Dunkak, CEO



Date



Date